

Application No.: 10/074,272
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-53 (cancelled)

Claim 54 (original): A process for making a film having a substantially uniform distribution of components comprising:

- (a) combining a polymer component and polar solvent to form a matrix with a uniform distribution of said components;
- (b) forming a film from said matrix; and
- (c) drying said film by feeding said film onto a surface having top and bottom sides; said bottom side being in substantially uniform contact with a water bath at a temperature sufficient to dry said film.

Claim 55 (original): The process of claim 54, wherein said water bath is temperature controlled.

Claims 56-61 (cancelled)

Claim 62 (new): The process of claim 54, further comprising the step of adding an active component to said matrix of step (a).

Claim 63 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said film is ingestible.

Claim 64 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said drying step maintains a non-self-aggregating uniform heterogeneity of said components throughout said film.

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Claim 65 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said film is flexible when dried.

Claim 66 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said film is self-supporting.

Claim 67 (new): The process of claim 62, wherein uniform distribution determines the amount of active material component per area.

Claim 68 (new): The process of claim 62, wherein a specific amount of the active material component may be obtained from said film by cutting said film to a predetermined size.

Claim 69 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said drying of said film occurs within about 10 minutes or fewer.

Claim 70 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said film includes a top side and a bottom side and said drying includes drying said bottom side first.

Claim 71 (new): The process of claim 70, wherein said drying includes applying heat to said bottom side.

Claim 72 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said polar solvent is a combination of water and a polar organic solvent.

Claim 73 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said polar solvent is water.

Claim 74 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said polar solvent added in step (a) has a weight percent of at least about 30%.

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Claim 75 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said drying of said film reduces the weight percent of said polar solvent to about 10% or less.

Claim 76 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said drying of said film reduces the weight percent of said polar solvent to about 8% or less.

Claim 77 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said drying of said film reduces the weight percent of said polar solvent to about 6% or less.

Claim 78 (new): The process of claim 62, wherein said active component is a member selected from the group consisting of medicaments, flavors, fragrances, enzymes, preservatives, sweetening agents, colorants, spices, vitamins, and combinations thereof.

Claim 79 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said polymer is a member selected from the group consisting of water soluble polymers, water insoluble polymers, and combinations thereof.

Claim 80 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said polymer is a cellulose derivative.

Claim 81 (new): The process of claim 79, wherein said water soluble polymer is a member selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, carboxymethyl cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium alginate, polyethylene glycol, xanthan gum, tragacanth gum, guar gum, acacia gum, arabic gum, polyacrylic acid, methylmethacrylate copolymer, carboxyvinyl copolymers, starch and combinations thereof.

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Claim 82 (new): The process of claim 79, wherein said water insoluble polymer is a member selected from the group consisting of ethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose phthalate, and combinations thereof.

Claim 83 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said film has a thickness of greater than about 0.1 mils.

Claim 84 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said film has a thickness of about 10 mils or fewer.

Claim 85 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said film has a substantially uniform thickness.

Claim 86 (new): The process of claim 62, wherein said film is divided into dosage forms of substantially equal dimensions.

Claim 87 (new): The process of claim 86, wherein each of said dosage forms contains a substantially equal amount of said active.

Claim 88 (new): The process of claim 86, wherein said dosage forms contain an amount of said active that varies about 10% or less among said dosage forms.

Claim 89 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said drying step comprises forming a visco-elastic structure.

Claim 90 (new): The process of claim 54, wherein said drying step achieves a film of substantially uniform thickness and component distribution.